

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07
INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06
OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 PA-01
PRS-01 /102 W

-----222309Z 084298 /45

P 222243Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3220

INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL

ALL OTHER CONSULATES IN CANADA (BY POUCH)

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PASS WHITE HOUSE/SCHLESINGER AND FEA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, SOPN, US, CA

SUBJECT: FURTHER MEDIA REACTION TO PRESIDENT'S ENERGY
SPEECH

REF: (A) TORONTO 0913; (B) OTTAWA 2515

1. APRIL 22 TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL EDITORIAL TITLED "A
DECLARATION OF WAR" EMPHASIZED DRAMATIC NATURE OF
PRESIDENT'S SPEECH TO CONGRESS NOTING SUCH CALLS TO DEFEND
AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE HAVE BEEN MADE BEFORE, BUT THEY WERE
NOT MADE IN PEACETIME AND DID NOT CALL ON AMERICANS TO
CHANGE THEIR WAY OF LIFE. ARTICLE INDICATED SURPRISE
THAT IN CONTEXT OF POLICY INTENDED TO FOCUS ON GASOLINE
CONSERVATION, THERE IS "NO EVIDENT MOVE TO SEDUCE TRAVELING
PUBLIC BACK FROM ENERGY EXTRAVAGANCE OF THE HIGHWAY TO THE
THRIFT OF THE PASSENGER TRAIN." CLOSING COMMENT SAID
PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESS OF POLICY NOT CLEAR BUT, "AS
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CANADIANS WE CAN ADMIRE MR. CARTER'S READINESS TO TACKLE
THE PROBLEM ON A SCALE THAT WILL NOT BE MATCHED HERE AS
LONG AS WE HAVE A FEDERAL GOVERNMENT THAT HAS NO ENERGY
POLICY AND FEELS NO NEED FOR ONE."

2. APRIL 20 OTTAWA JOURNAL EDITORIAL, ALSO FOCUSING ON
DRAMATIC ELEMENT, LIKENED PRESIDENT'S FIRESIDE CHAT TO

HANDWRITING ON WALL AT BELSHAZZAR'S FEAST, AND SAID, "MESSAGE IS JUST AS COGENT FOR CANADIANS." IN CLOSING EDITORIAL SAID, "IT WILL BE A TEST OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, TO SEE WHETHER THEY CAN SHED INBORN ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT A PLENITUDE OF ENERGY AND MEET A PEACETIME CHALLENGE OF SELF-SACRIFICE. AND JUST AS MUCH (IT IS) A CHALLENGE FOR CANADIANS."

3. APRIL 21 TORONTO STAR GAVE FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE TO INTERVIEW WITH ENERGY, MINES AND RESOURCES MINISTER ALASTAIR GILLESPIE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS TO CONGRESS. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNT, "GILLESPIE HAD NOTHING BUT PRAISE FOR THE PRESIDENT'S STRINGENT PROPOSALS," BUT WANTED TO CONSIDER PROPOSALS BEFORE COMMENTING ON THEM FORMALLY AND IN DETAIL. GILLESPIE NOTED PARALLELS BETWEEN PRESIDENT'S PROPOSALS AND IDEAS ALREADY BEING TRIED OR PROPOSED IN CANADA -- HOME INSULATION TAX CREDIT (ONLY IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND AND NOVA SCOTIA) AND CANADIAN PROPOSALS TO ESTABLISH MINIMUM PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES. GILLESPIE PREDICTED THAT IF PRESIDENT'S ENERGY PLAN IS ENACTED, CANADIANS WILL PAY EVEN HIGHER PRICES FOR GASOLINE AND DRIVE SMALLER CARS. (NOTE: AS INDICATED BY CONCLUDING STATEMENT OF APRIL 7 FEDERAL/PROVINCIAL ENERGY MINISTERS' MEETING (REPORTED REFTEL B), GOC PAYS CLOSE ATTENTION TO MAINTAINING ALIGNMENT OF CANADIAN AND U.S. DOMESTIC PRICES. THEREFORE, IF U.S. PRICES RISE AS RESULT OF PRESIDENT'S PROGRAM, CANADIAN PRICES WILL FOLLOW.)

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4. MONTREAL GAZETTE REPORTED APRIL 22 THAT PREMIER RENE LEVESQUE WAS "REASSURED" BY PRESIDENT'S ENERGY PLAN AND THAT HIS ADMINISTRATION HAS SIMILAR PLANS FOR QUEBEC.

5. BALANCE OF NEWSPAPER COVERAGE WAS ESSENTIALLY FACTUAL REPORTING OF PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL; MUCH OF COVERAGE WAS DATELINED WASHINGTON.

6. CLIPPINGS FOLLOW BY POUCH. ENDERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLICIES, ENERGY, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977OTTAWA02998
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770141-0402
Format: TEL
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770429/aaaaayle.tel
Line Count: 107
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 041c8ea0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 TORONTO 913, 77 OTTAWA 2515
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2721874
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FURTHER MEDIA REACTION TO PRESIDENT'S ENERGY SPEECH
TAGS: ENRG, SOPN, US, CA, (CARTER, JIMMY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/041c8ea0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009